



EUROPEAN  
SPALLATION  
SOURCE

What facilities (will) exist to  
do fundamental cross-frontier  
BSM searches with the  
humble neutron?  
Consider the COHERENT  
approach...



# Searches for Transformations of Neutrons to Sterile Neutrons and Antineutrons at ORNL and ESS

by Joshua Barrow, [jbarrow3@vols.utk.edu](mailto:jbarrow3@vols.utk.edu)

*Snowmass 2021 Rare Processes and Precision Frontier*

*Dark Sectors Topical Group*

October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020

*Please see the associated [Letter of Interest](#), and references therein*



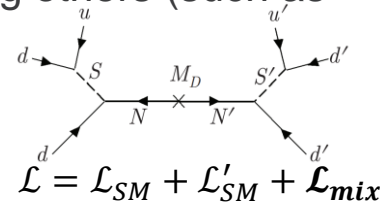
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**BIG ORANGE. BIG IDEAS.®**

## Physics Motivations *Including and Beyond* Dark Matter

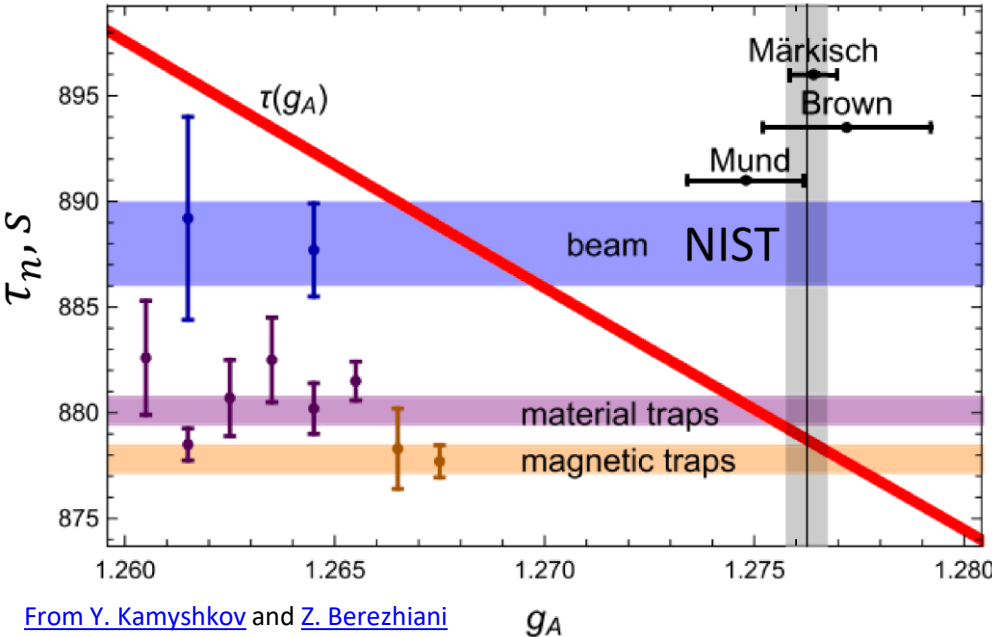
- Can map onto rich low energy phenomenology with neutrons in mind—[Cosmic Visions 2017](#)
- Searches for  $\mathcal{B}$ -violating [oscillatory behavior](#) (Berezghiani) with neutral particles (**neutrons underexplored**) is one of many important venues to consider among others (such as *fundamental symmetries*)

- $n \rightarrow \bar{n}$  transformations are strongly motivated:  $|\phi_n\rangle = \begin{bmatrix} n \\ \bar{n} \end{bmatrix}$ 
  - $|\Delta\mathcal{B}| = 2$ : free and bound oscillations are possible, [ties to baryogenesis](#)
- Can similarly think of  $n \rightarrow n'$  conversion:  $|\phi_n\rangle = \begin{bmatrix} n \\ n' \end{bmatrix}$ 
  - $|\Delta\mathcal{B}| = 1$ ? : possible connections to DM and the  $n$  [lifetime puzzle](#)
- Can even consider larger systems:  $|\phi_n\rangle = \begin{bmatrix} n \\ n' \\ \bar{n}' \\ \bar{n} \end{bmatrix}$ 
  - Possible connections to [cobaryogenesis](#) (Berezhiyani)



# We Can Pursue DM and the Neutron Lifetime

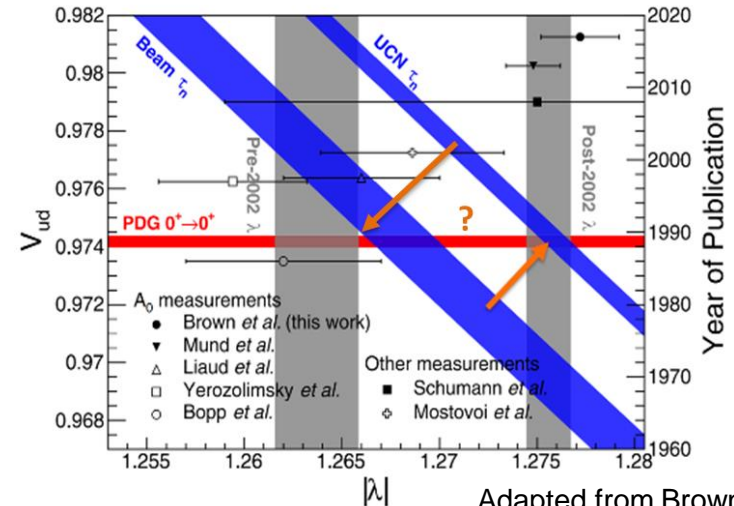
## “Puzzle” Together



Understanding the potential BSM sources of these tensions creates high impact science, and can conduct great synergy between nuclear, particle, and BSM physics communities

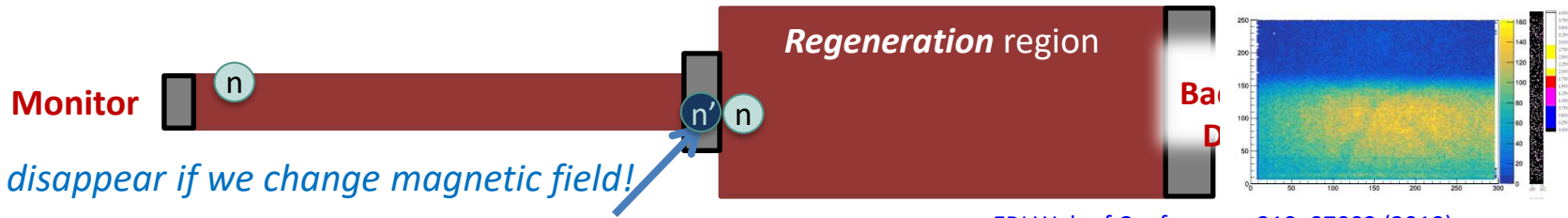
Disparities between beam and bottle  $n$ -lifetime measurements highlight persistent, **growing**  $\sim 4\sigma$  tensions within SM physics

- Could interactions with a dark sector contribute to these disparities?
- Can we use existing and future intense neutron sources to search for new physics?



# Search Principles for $n \rightarrow n'$ with Cold Neutrons

From existing SNS and HFIR instrument facilities and beyond



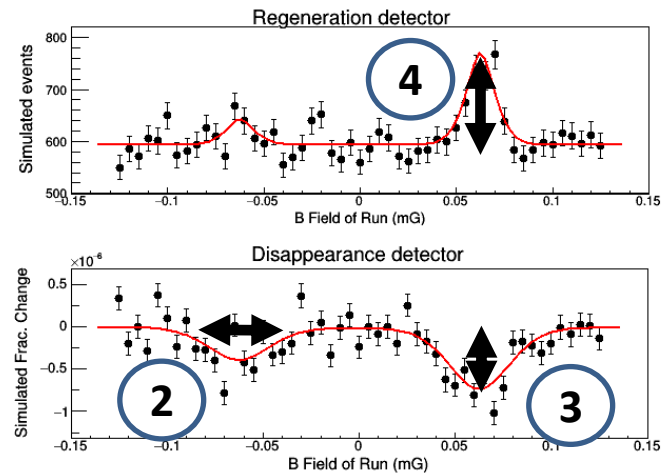
MAG-H/Sample Area/Detector/Beamstop

[EPJ Web of Conferences 219, 07002 \(2019\)](#)

[Phys. Rev. D 96, 035039](#)

$$\textcircled{1} P(n \rightarrow n' \rightarrow n) \propto \left(\frac{t_{Dis}}{\tau}\right)^2 \left(\frac{t_{Reg}}{\tau}\right)^2$$

1. High neutron flux with **long, large area guides**
2. **Magnetic field uniformity and control**
3. **Precise monitoring of changes in transmission**
4. **Regeneration**: large area, low background detector





# ORNL operates two world-class neutron facilities

High Flux Isotope Reactor

Spallation Neutron Source

**Fission**

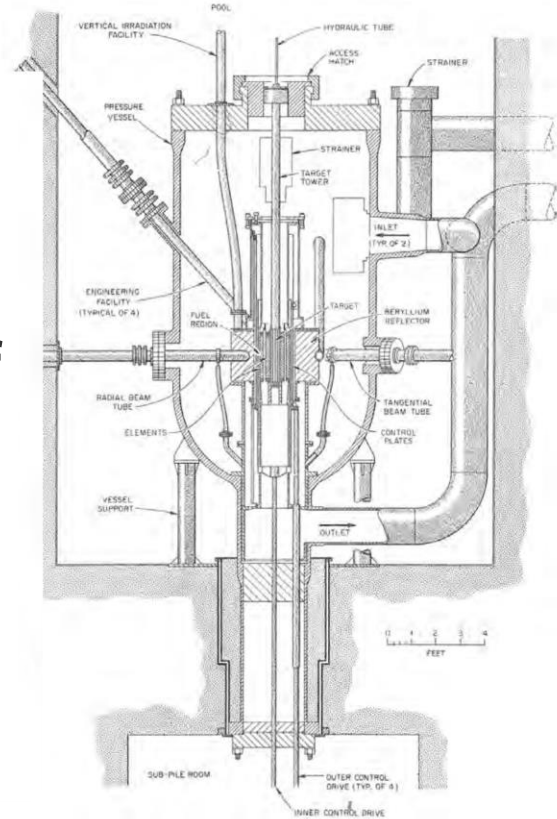
- Chain reaction
- Continuous mode
- $\sim 2.5n/\text{fission}$

**Spallation**

- No chain reaction
- Pulsed mode (60 Hz)
- $\sim 30n/\text{spallation}$

# HFIR Upgrade: Pressure Vessel Replacement to provide significant enhancements

**“A dedicated fundamental physics laboratory at an upgraded HFIR or a new reactor could have a transformative impact on the field of fundamental physics and the synergistic and collaborative efforts of scientists within the [DOE] Office of Science”**  
**-[BESAC report](#)**





# The Fundamental Physics Community Should Utilize Existing Precision Facilities

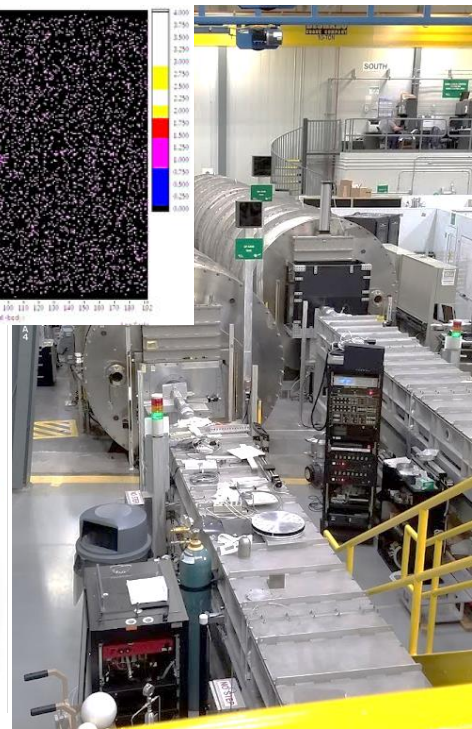
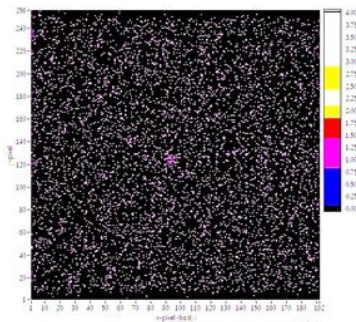
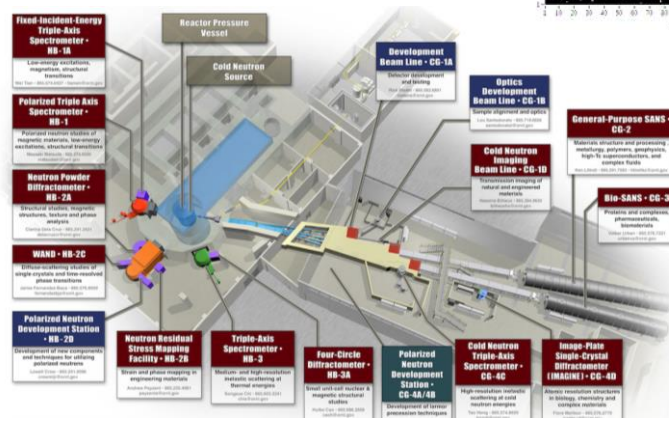
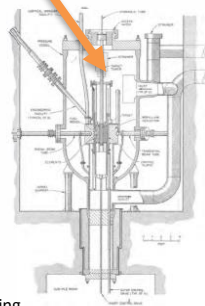
New Experiments at the High Flux Isotope Reactor (HFIR) GP-SANS Beamline

Basic Energy Science funded facilities are available for robust fundamental physics searches through active User Programs

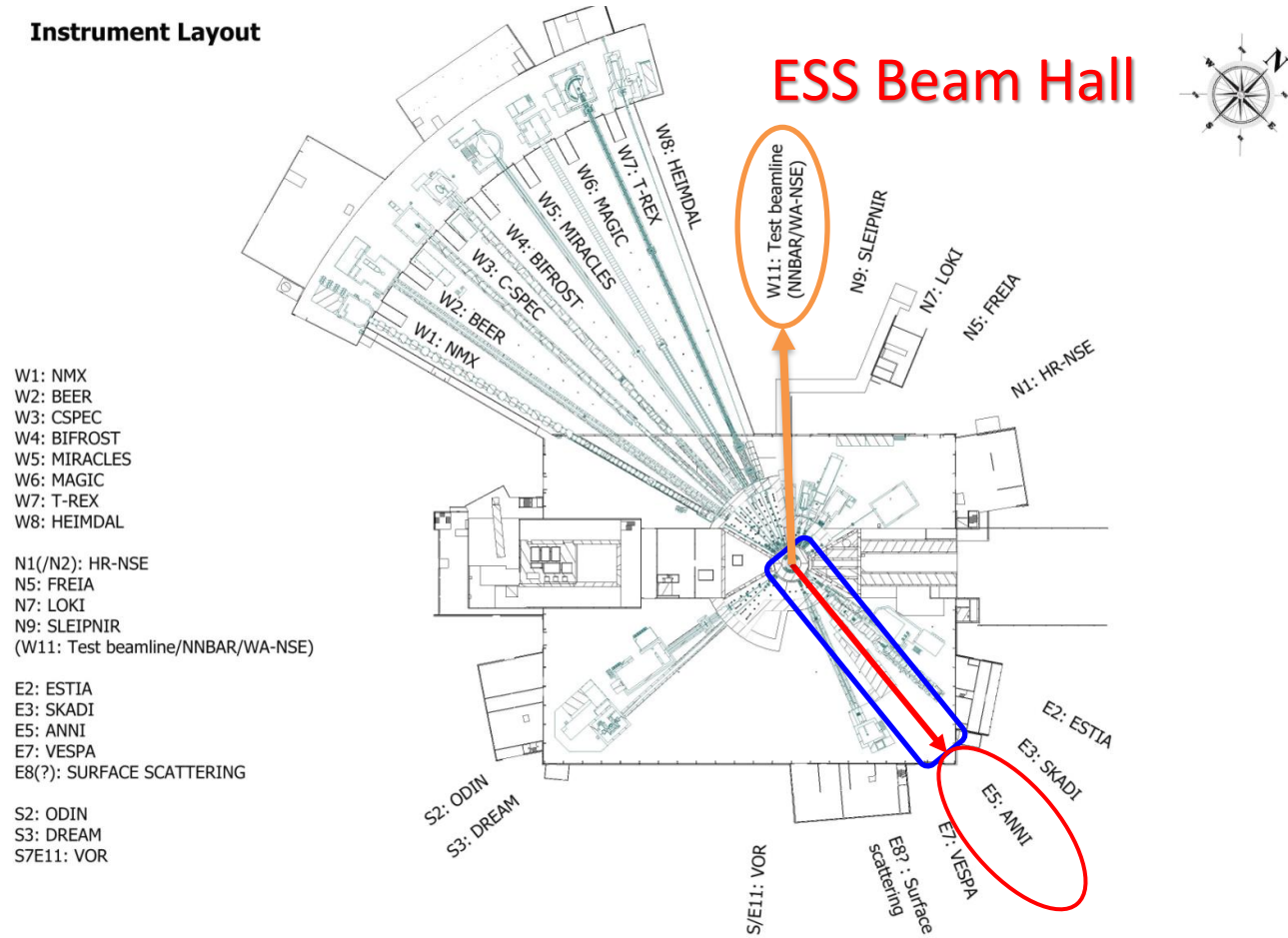
- 85 MW reactor with large, low background detectors ( $\sim 3$  n/s) downrange
- Highest flux reactor-based source of neutrons for research in the US
  - $10^{10} \frac{n}{s}$  downbeam, long flight paths
- Upgrade coming *beyond* beryllium changeout!
  - New! 100 MW!
  - Here to stay!

Long-term vision: A future pressure vessel replacement could provide an opportunity for significant enhancements

- New pressure vessel:
  - Operating at 100 MW (instead of 85 MW)
  - Extending life of HFIR by 50 years
- D<sub>2</sub>O reflector:
  - Significant performance gain
- Second guide hall at HB-2:
  - $\sim 10$  instruments at much lower background
- Upgraded cold source:
  - $\sim 50\%$  higher brightness for neutron at  $\lambda > 2$  Å



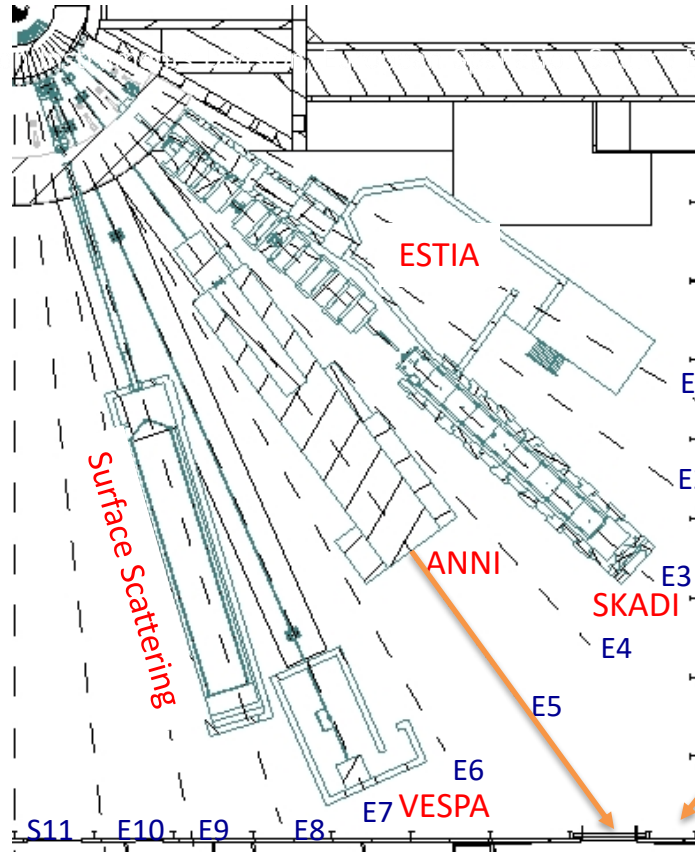
## Instrument Layout





# Provisions for ANNI/HIBEAM

Note that all  
 $n \rightarrow n'$   
experiments  
can begin  
without  
operation of  
the full beam  
intensity, and  
so we can start  
(and finish)  
*before* others  
who require  
such intensity

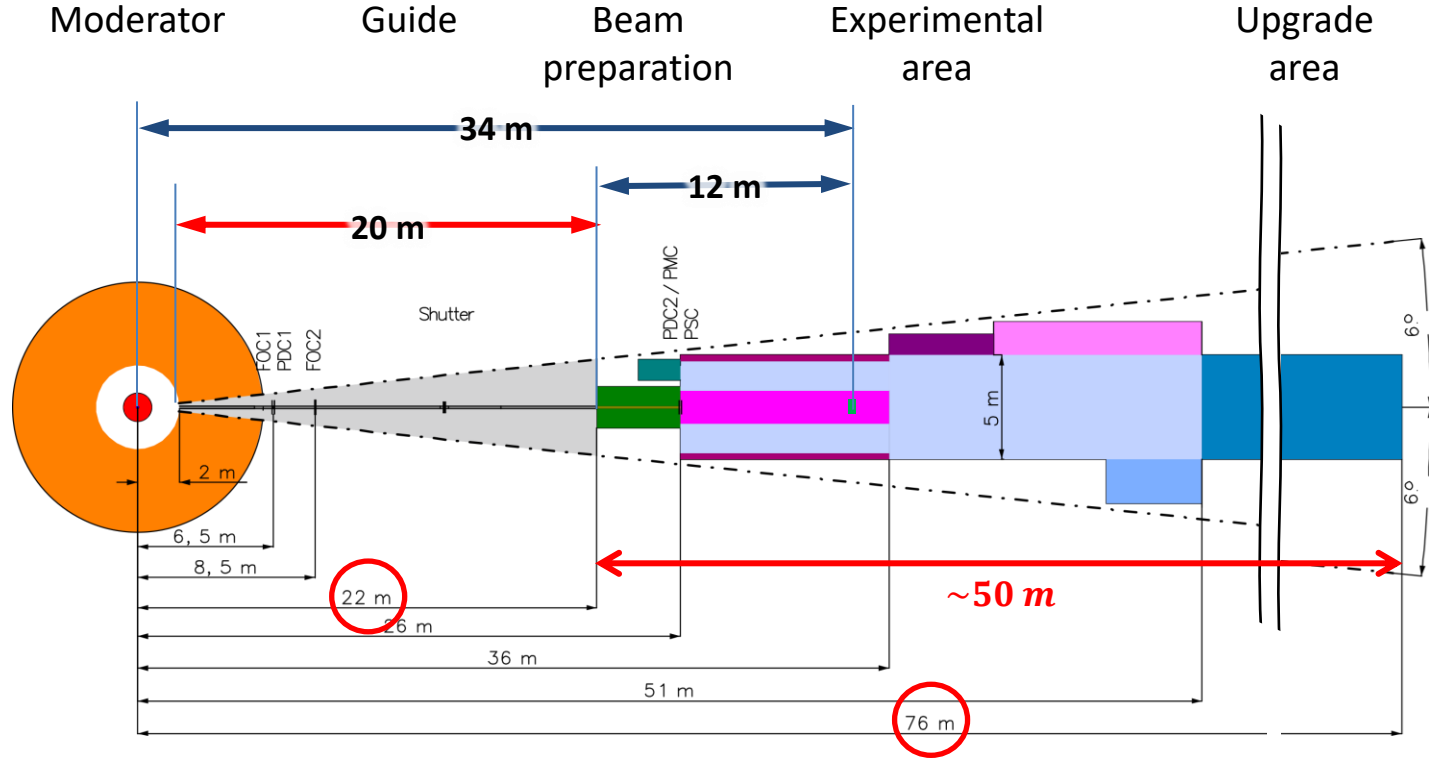


Plenty of space  
moving toward  
the corner of  
the building

$\sim 10^{10} n/s$ , even  
without  $n$   
reflectors!

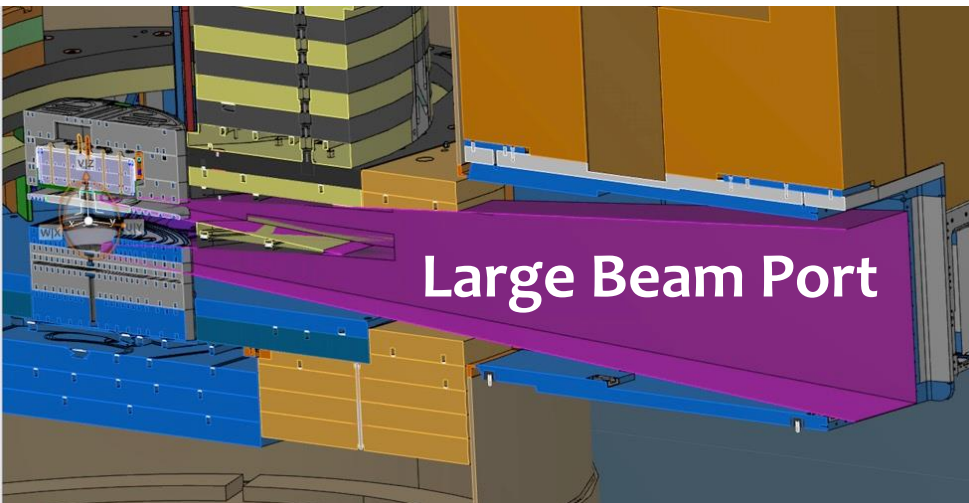
# ANNI/HIBEAM – Overview

Adapted from Torsten Soldner



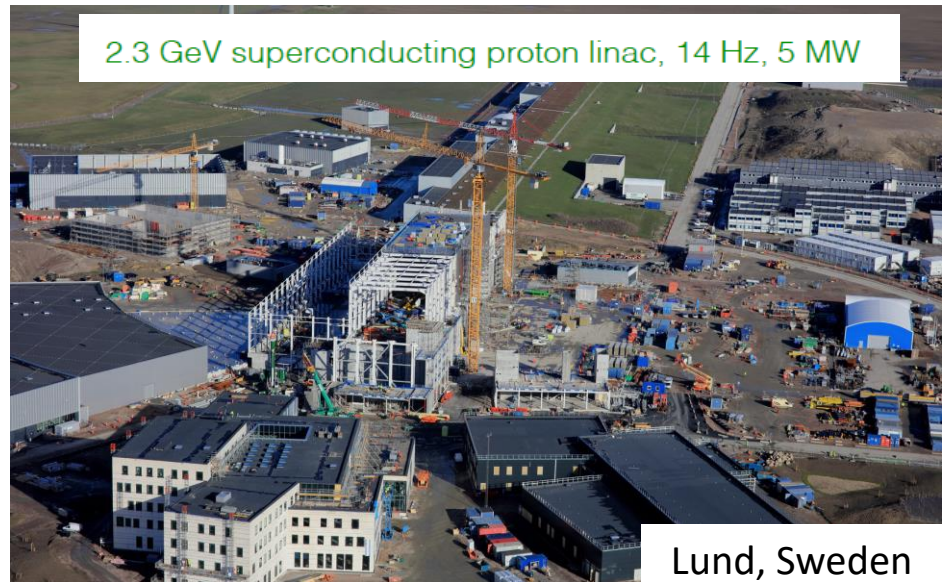
# NNBAR at ESS LBP

Direct Baryon Number Violation Searches on the Horizon  
Using Future Accelerator-Based Spallation Neutron Facility



**“The Large Beam Port is an opportunity to broaden the ESS mission”**

Rikard Linander, Head of the ESS Target Division



**ESS Status: Construction 70% Completed**

**Beam On Target: 2022**

**Start of the User Program: 2023**

**End of Construction for the first 15 instruments: 2025**

**Good  $n \rightarrow n'$  multiphysics can be done as a part of R&D preparation for  $n \rightarrow \bar{n}$  experiments**

## New high-sensitivity searches for neutrons converting into antineutrons and/or sterile neutrons at the European Spallation Source

A. Addazi<sup>h,at</sup>, K. Anderson<sup>aq</sup>, S. Ansell<sup>bm</sup>, K. S. Babu<sup>az</sup>, J. Barrow<sup>w</sup>,  
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A. D. Dolgov<sup>ai,ao</sup>, K. Dunne<sup>ba</sup>, P. Fierlinger<sup>o</sup>, M. R. Fitzsimmons<sup>w</sup>, A. Fomin<sup>n</sup>,  
M. Frost<sup>aq</sup>, S. Gardiner<sup>c</sup>, S. Gardner<sup>z</sup>, A. Galindo-Uribarri<sup>aq</sup>, P. Geltenbort<sup>p</sup>,  
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E. Iverson<sup>aq</sup>, T. Johansson<sup>bg</sup>, L. Jönsson<sup>ad</sup>, Y-J. Jwa<sup>an</sup>, Y. Kamyshkov<sup>w</sup>,  
K. Kanaki<sup>ac</sup>, E. Kearns<sup>g</sup>, B. Kerbikov<sup>al,aj,ak</sup>, M. Kitaguchi<sup>ap</sup>, T. Kittelmann<sup>ac</sup>,  
E. Klinkby<sup>ae</sup>, A. Kobakhidze<sup>bl</sup>, L. W. Koerner<sup>s</sup>, B. Kopeliovich<sup>bi</sup>, A. Kozela<sup>y</sup>,  
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J. I. Marquez<sup>ac</sup>, B. Meirose<sup>ba,ad</sup>, T. M. Miller<sup>ac</sup>, D. Milstead<sup>ba,\*</sup>,  
R. N. Mohapatra<sup>i</sup>, T. Morishima<sup>ap</sup>, G. Muhrer<sup>ac</sup>, H. P. Mumm<sup>m</sup>, K. Nagamoto<sup>ap</sup>,  
F. Nesti<sup>l</sup>, V. V. Nesvizhevsky<sup>p</sup>, T. Nilsson<sup>r</sup>, A. Oskarsson<sup>ad</sup>, E. Paryev<sup>ah</sup>,  
R. W. Pattie, Jr.<sup>t</sup>, S. Penttilä<sup>aq</sup>, Y. N. Pokotilovski<sup>am</sup>, I. Potashnikova<sup>bi</sup>,  
C. Redding<sup>x</sup>, J-M. Richard<sup>bj</sup>, D. Ries<sup>af</sup>, E. Rinaldi<sup>au,bc</sup>, N. Rossi<sup>b</sup>, A. Ruggles<sup>x</sup>,  
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A. R. Young<sup>as</sup>, L. Zanini<sup>ac</sup>, Z. Zhang<sup>ar</sup>, O. Zimmer<sup>p</sup>

[ESS HIBEAM/NNBAR program white-paper](#)

## Future Free $n$ Beam Searches at the European Spallation Source

International collaboration is growing around future European Spallation Source beamlines and neutron oscillation experiments

- Collectively rebuild expertise through small scale experiments focused on  $n \rightarrow n'$

White paper on European opportunities for free  $n \rightarrow n'$  and  $n \rightarrow \bar{n}$  [on the arXiv](#)

- Intended for Physics Reports
  - Snowmass contribution with broader context to follow
- Will pursue a similar, complete study of currently available intense sources here in the US
  - Other BSM searches with neutrons (EDM, etc)?



# Overarching Summary

- **Neutron transformation physics at existing and future intense sources offers a powerful portal onto DM, baryogenesis, and BSM physics**
- The development of an **international collaboration** (ESS HIBEAM and NNBAR) **continues**
  - Will include key **R&D work at ORNL HFIR/SNS**, with full **experiments ongoing**
  - [ESS HIBEAM/NNBAR program white-paper is complete](#)
- **Small, cheap  $n \rightarrow n'$  experiments, with little to no impact on larger user programs, allow for fast-tracked science with key R&D potentials for larger-scale  $n \rightarrow \bar{n}$  searches**
  - If interested in this physics, [see our ACFI workshop!](#)

# Work to be completed by Summer 2021

- Calibration of HFIR detector with white beam has been completed with magnet installed, analysis underway!
  - Currently planned HFIR run is upcoming very soon!
  - Analysis of previous SNS search ongoing
  - Analysis of HFIR data forthcoming
  - Publication(s) to follow for various  $n \rightarrow n'$  style searches
- Active international collaborators are also involved in...
  - NNBAR/HIBEAM with  $n \rightarrow n'$ ,  $n \rightarrow n' \rightarrow \bar{n}$ , and  $n \rightarrow \bar{n}$  in mind
  - [HighNESS project](#) is now designing an optimum lower moderator for NNBAR
    - Direct outcome: Full NNBAR conceptual design report to be completed in  $< 3$  years
    - Critical to understand all R&D components  $n \rightarrow n'$  searches at HFIR/SNS and HIBEAM/ANNI can jointly offer us
  - Greater US-based collaboration and support is necessary

# Joint Efforts and Snowmass Outcomes

- Neutron sources are underutilized for fundamental physics programs
  - BES has begun greater accommodations for particle physics searches
    - We should endorse and follow these opportunities
  - Fast, cheap, small experiments can produce high-impact science
  - Searches for rich dark sectors and BNV are only the tip of the iceberg!
- Actively looking for detector/instrumentation collaborators
  - Neutron detectors, annihilation detectors, fast electronics, analysis
  - Engineering, students, and human resources support are needed



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SOURCE

This research [or, A portion of this research] used resources at the High Flux Isotope Reactor [and/or Spallation Neutron Source, as appropriate], a DOE Office of Science User Facility operated by the Oak Ridge National Laboratory.



**NNBAR collaborators  
near the LBP in Lund**

## New high-sensitivity searches for neutrons converting into antineutrons and/or sterile neutrons at the European Spallation Source

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[ESS HIBEAM/NNBAR program white-paper](#)







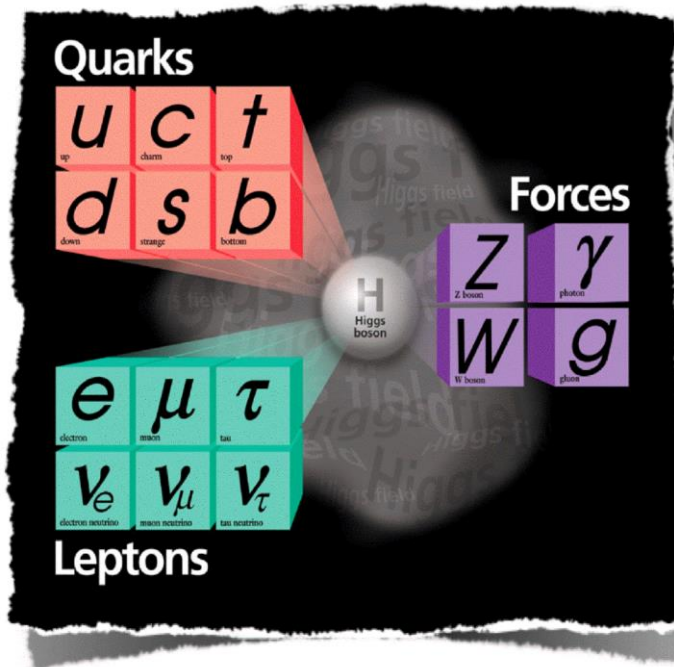
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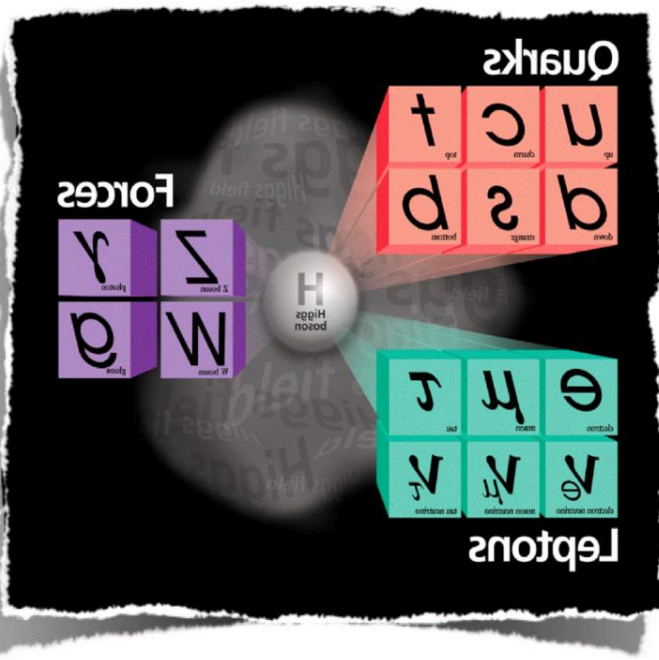
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SM



SM'

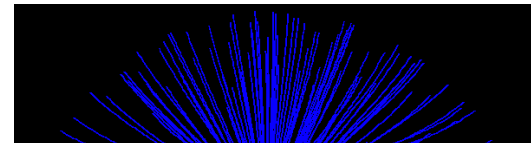


# Concept of Mirror Matter

- Identical copy of SM with opposite parity
- ~No new parameters
  - $Z_2$  symmetry
- Long considered a 'hidden sector' DM candidate

$$\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}_{SM} + \mathcal{L}'_{SM}$$

# Neutral Particle Oscillations Between Sectors

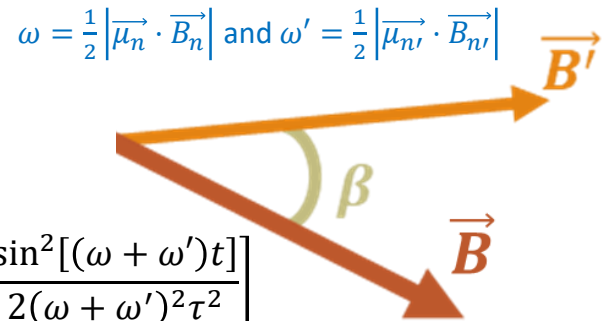
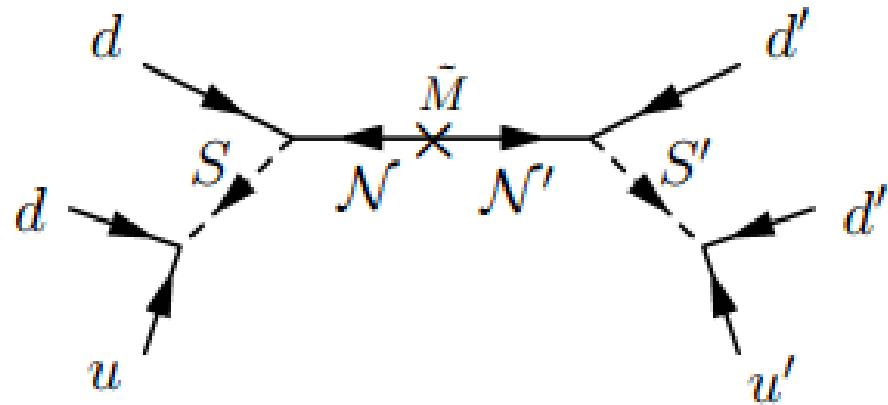


- The most interesting interaction terms in  $\mathcal{L}_{mix}$  are where neutral particles (elementary, *and composite*) can mix with their mass degenerate, sterile twins
  - Under proper conditions:
    - Matter disappearance (or appearance) phenomena
    - Could be observed in the lab
- Assume that a neutral particle, such as a *neutron*, is a two component object which can oscillate:

$$\Psi = \begin{pmatrix} n \\ n' \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\mathcal{H}_{n \rightarrow n'} = \begin{pmatrix} m_n - \vec{\mu}_n \cdot \vec{B} - \frac{i\lambda}{2} & \varepsilon \\ \varepsilon & m_{n'} - \vec{\mu}_{n'} \cdot \vec{B}' - \frac{i\lambda'}{2} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$P_{n \rightarrow n'}(t) = \frac{\sin^2[(\omega - \omega')t]}{2(\omega - \omega')^2\tau^2} + \frac{\sin^2[(\omega + \omega')t]}{2(\omega + \omega')^2\tau^2} + \cos\beta \cdot \left[ \frac{\sin^2[(\omega - \omega')t]}{2(\omega - \omega')^2\tau^2} - \frac{\sin^2[(\omega + \omega')t]}{2(\omega + \omega')^2\tau^2} \right]$$

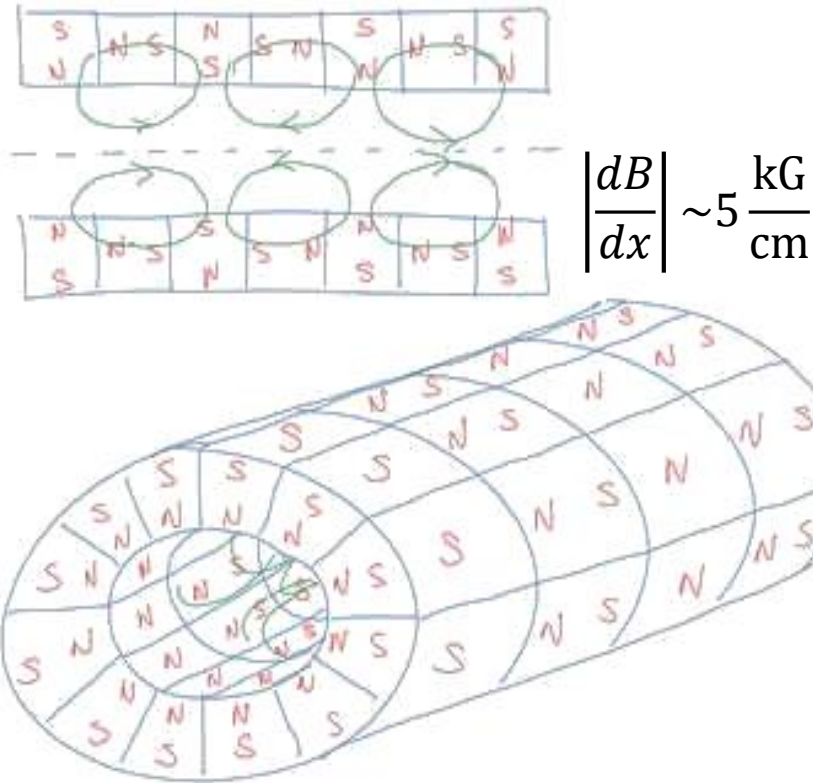


# Constraining this Physics Offers Exciting Possibilities to Understand DM and the $n$ Lifetime Puzzle

- DM remains a central problem in physics and cosmology
  - Axions? Supersymmetry? No experimental (laboratory) evidence so far???
  - [Cosmic Visions 2017 Community Report](#)
  - **Hidden/mirror sectors** or branes? Mirror neutrons? **MM as DM?**
    - [Zurab Berezhiani \(ZB\) 2001](#), [ZB 2005](#), [ZB 2006](#), [ZB 2009](#), [ZB 2012](#), [Foot 2014](#), [Sarrazin 2016](#), [ZB 2017](#), [ZB 2017](#), [Broussard 2017](#), [ZB 2018](#), [Sarrazin 2018](#), [Broussard 2019](#), [Stasser 2020](#)...
  - **Co-baryogenesis** between OM and DM sectors?
    - [ZB 2006](#), [ZB 2016](#), [Bringmann 2018](#), [ZB 2018](#)
- **Losses and anomalies** with neutron traps
  - [Serebrov 2008](#) and [2009](#), [Altarev 2009](#), [ZB 2012](#), [Pokotilovski 2017](#), [Mohanmurthy 2018](#)
- The possible **connections to the  $n$  lifetime puzzle and  $V_{ud}$**  has given incentive to and generated a large new swath of theory
  - [ZB 2018](#), [Fornal 2018](#), [Sun 2018](#), [Tang 2018](#), [Serebrov 2018](#)
- The field has been growing and offers opportunities for a rich experimental program across fundamental particle physics
- **Utilizing cold neutrons at ORNL and ESS offers a great portal onto these fundamental searches**



# ④a HFIR/ANNI TMM search(es)



Adapted from Chris Crawford

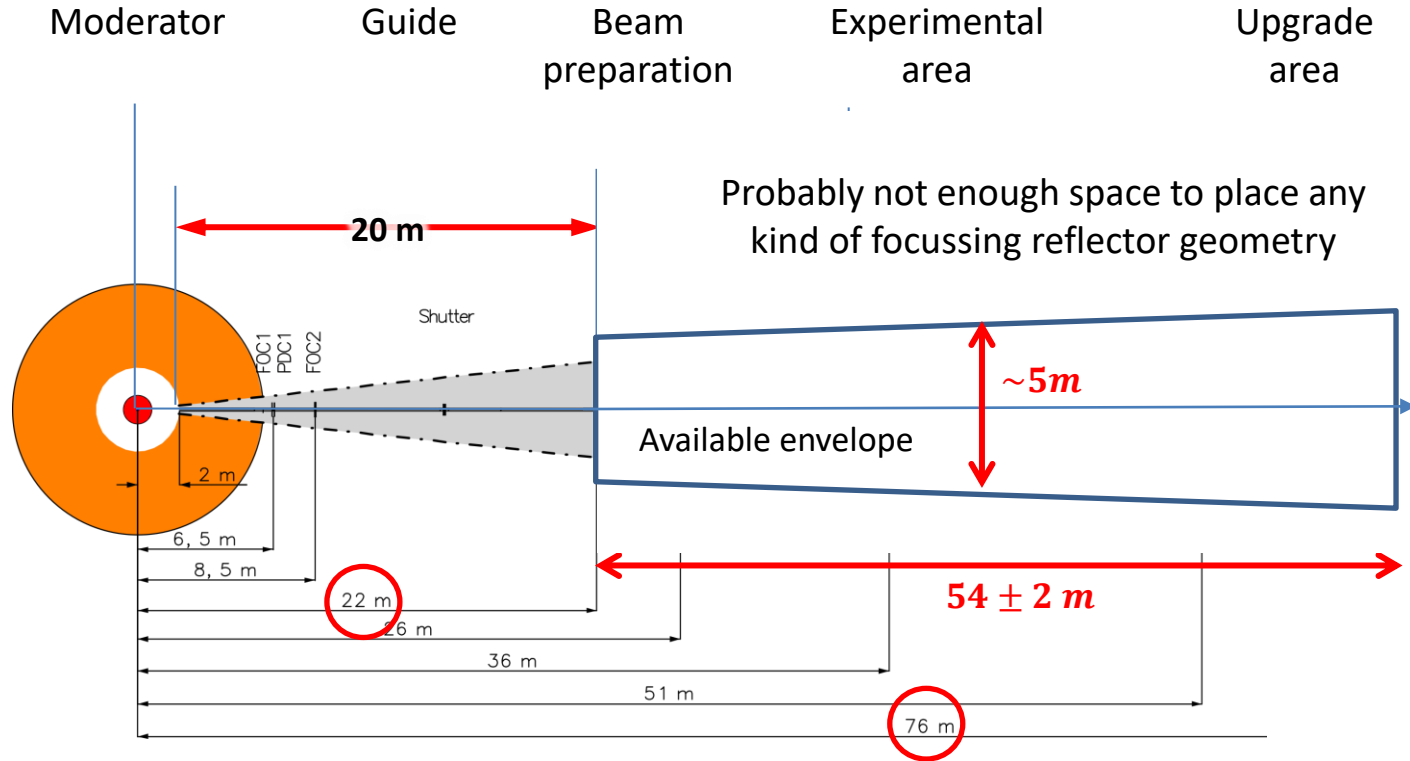
$$\mathcal{H} = \begin{pmatrix} T + \mu B & \eta \mu B \\ \eta \mu B & T' \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\Rightarrow P_{n'}(t) = (2\eta)^2 \cdot \sin^2 \left( \frac{\mu B}{2} t \right)$$

- Break coherence of  $\{n, n'\}$  oscillating system through a magnetic field gradient  

$$\Rightarrow P_{n'} \cong \frac{2\eta^2}{\mu^2} \sim \text{constant!}$$
- A cylindrical Halbach array for large magnetic field gradients using permanent magnets could be used for either thermal or UC neutrons

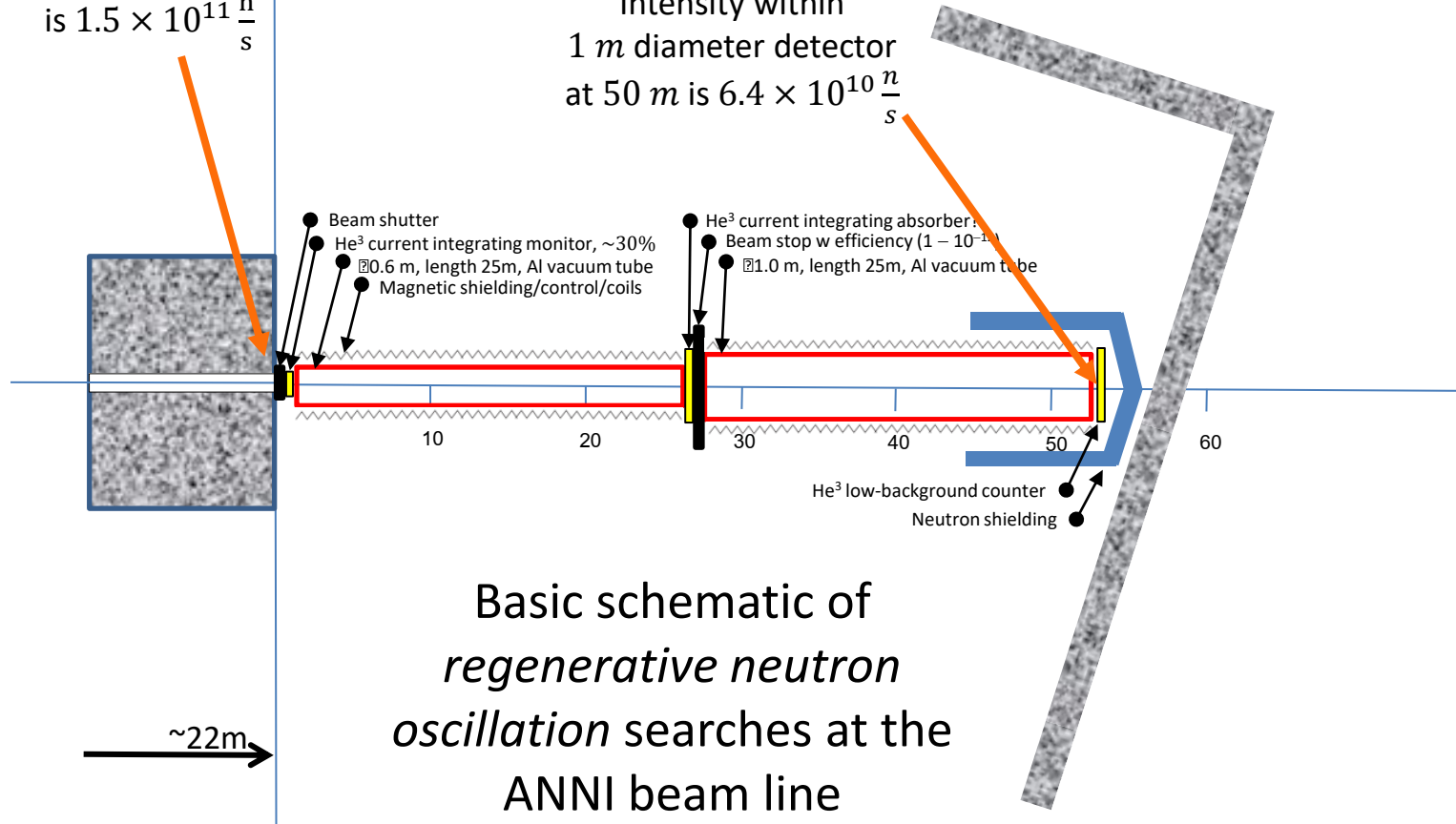
# Needed Space for $n \rightarrow n'$ Search at ANNI Beamline



All figures assume 1MW operating power

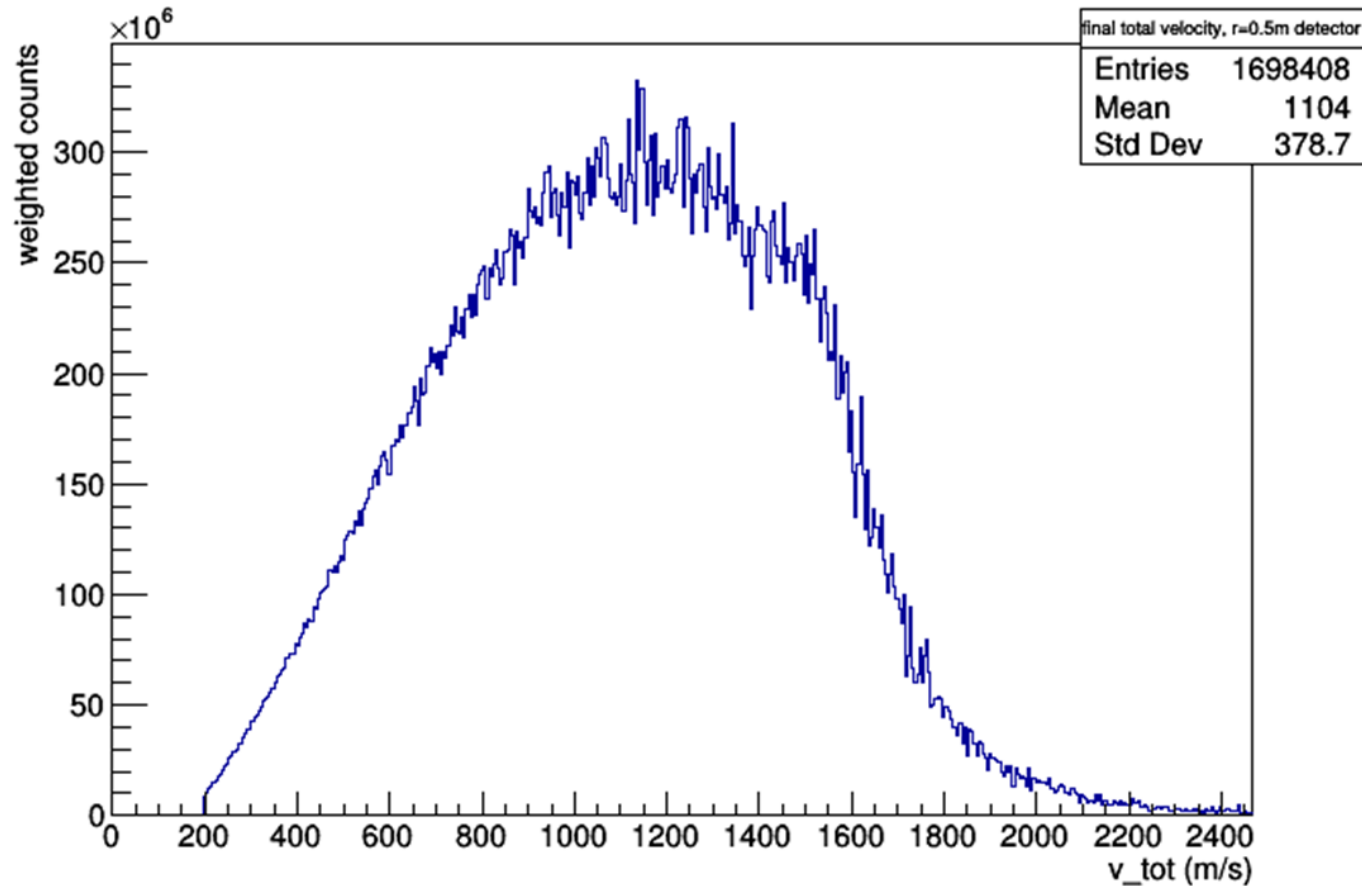
Intensity within  
 $\sim 11 \times 7 \text{ cm}$  exit  
is  $1.5 \times 10^{11} \frac{n}{s}$

Intensity within  
1 m diameter detector  
at 50 m is  $6.4 \times 10^{10} \frac{n}{s}$



Basic schematic of  
*regenerative neutron  
oscillation* searches at the  
ANNI beam line

## Final Velocity of Neutrons on 1m Detector at 50m



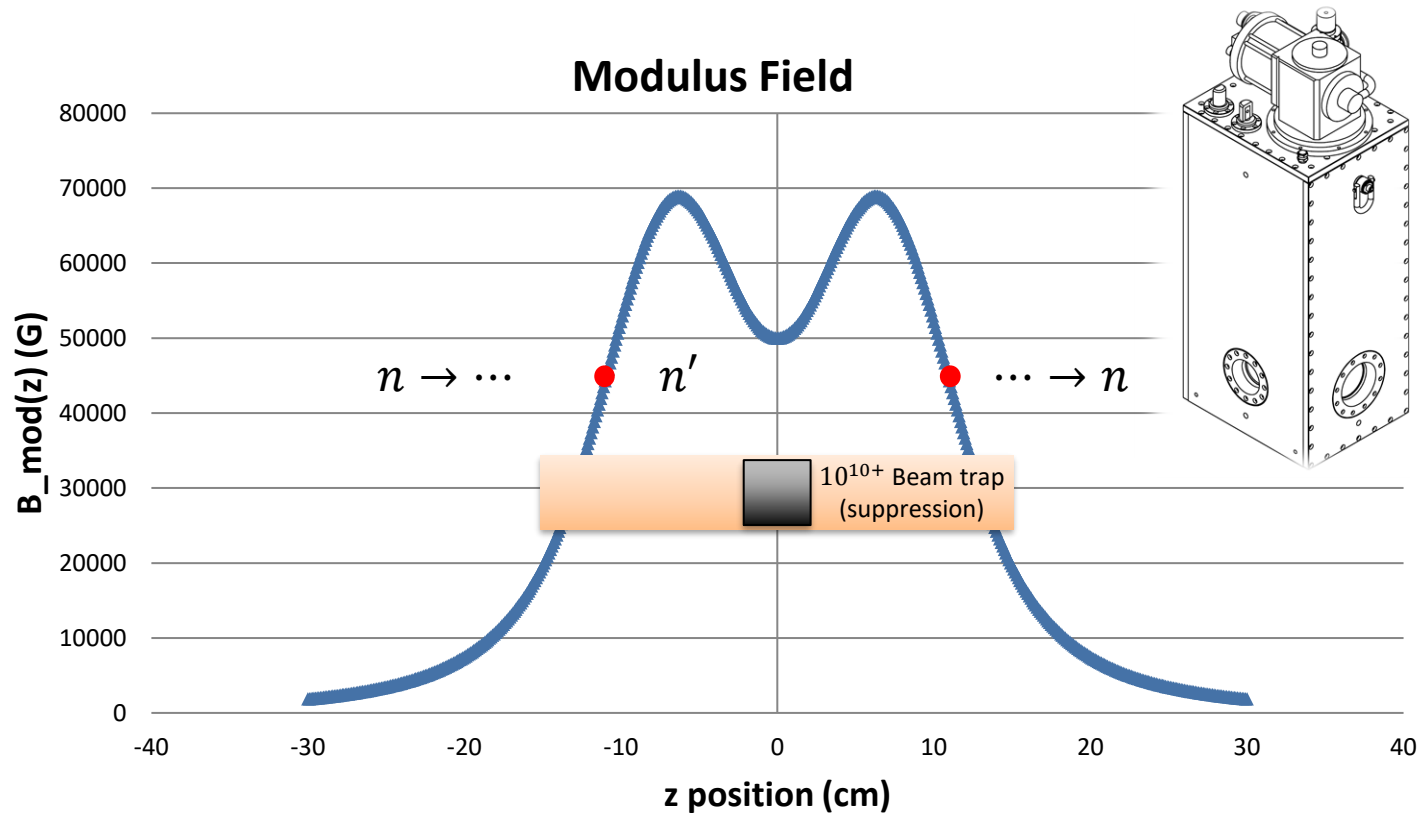


# A Vision for a $n \rightarrow n'$ Search Program (at ORNL and ESS)

1. **HFIR** high- $\vec{B}$  ( $\delta m$ ) search ([ZB 2018](#))
  - First (SNS) run complete, analysis underway; HFIR to follow in September
2. **HFIR** high- $\vec{B}$  gradient TMM search? ([ZB 2019](#))
3. **HFIR**  $n \rightarrow n' \rightarrow \bar{n}$  search ([ZB 2018](#), [2020](#))
4. **ANNI** TMM searches with gradients and gases
5. **ANNI** low- $\vec{B}$  resonant *regeneration* ( $n \rightarrow n' \rightarrow n$ ) search ([ZB 2017](#), [Broussard 2017](#), [Broussard 2019](#))
6. **ANNI** low- $\vec{B}$  resonant *disappearance* ( $n \rightarrow n'$ ) search ([ZB 2009](#))
7. **ANNI**  $n \rightarrow n' \rightarrow \bar{n}$  search ([ZB 2018](#), [2020](#))

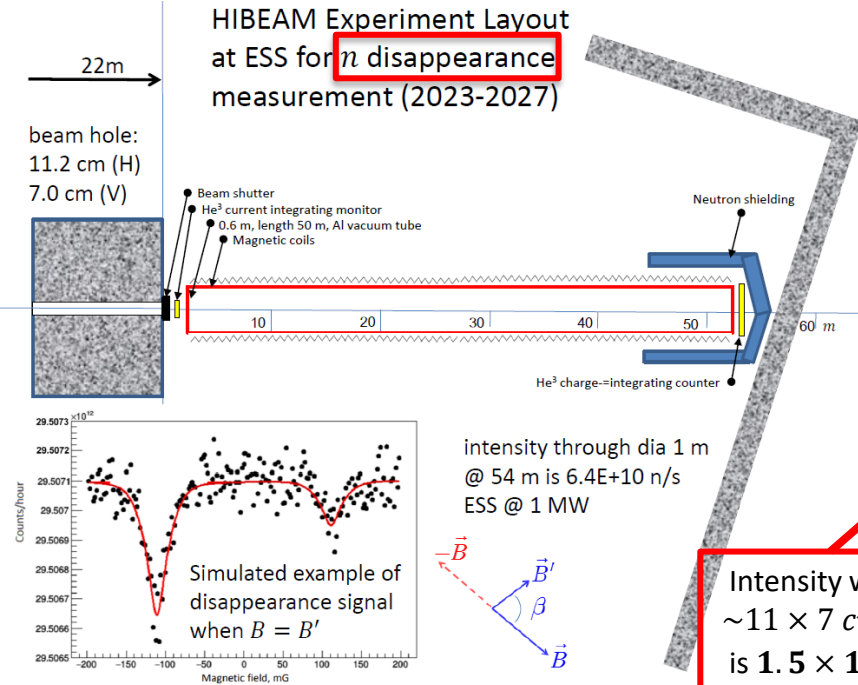
Given enough effort, many of these could be completed on a multi-year timescale at ORNL, and then tested with a high-brightness pulsed beam at the ESS after 2025

# ① & ② ORNL SNS/HFIR high- $\vec{B}$ $\delta m$ and gradient TMM search

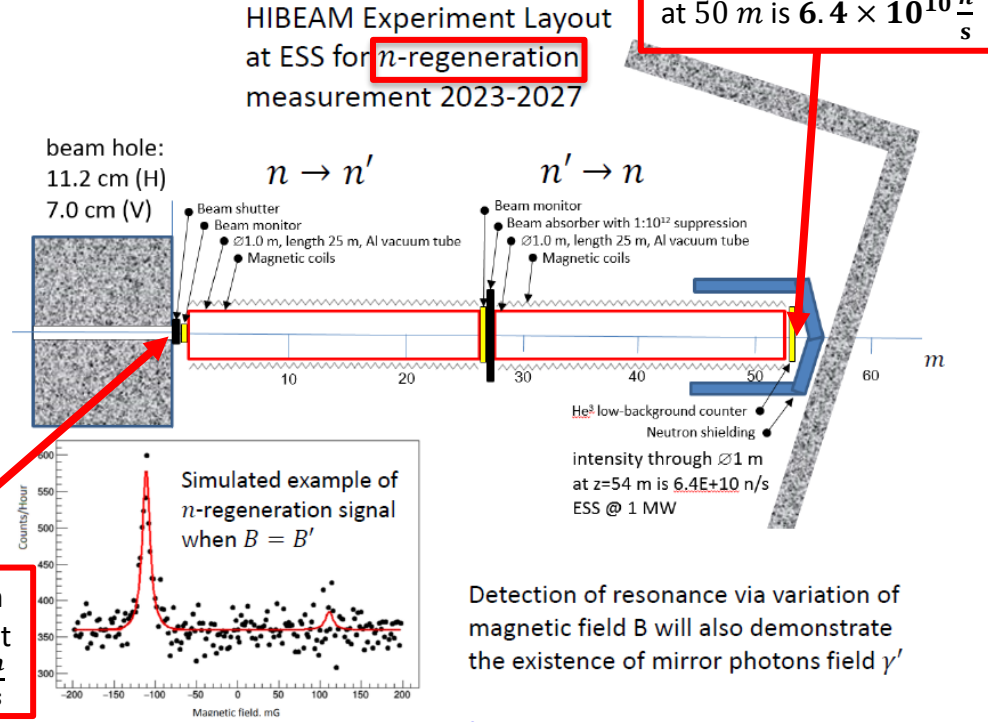


# Similar future higher sensitivity searches at ESS

## ANNI/HIBEAM



Intensity within  $\sim 11 \times 7$  cm exit is  $1.5 \times 10^{11} \frac{n}{s}$

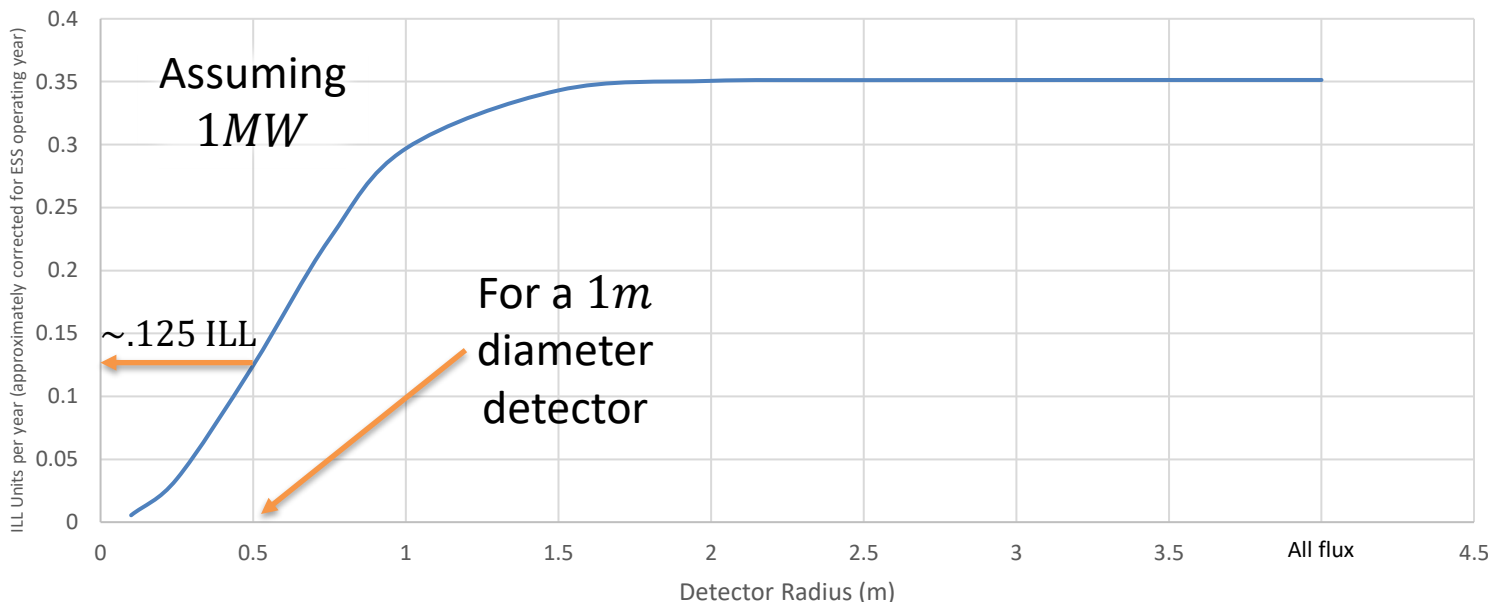


Adapted from T. Soldner, Y. Kamyshev, L. Broussard

# ANNI as a Test-bed for Future ESS $n \rightarrow \bar{n}$

- Our ultimate goal as a collaboration is to increase the ILL  $n \rightarrow \bar{n}$  sensitivity by  $10^{3+}$  at the Large Beamport, providing unique opportunities to study physics scales above conceivable colliders
  - Could definitively observe BNV, testing models of baryogenesis, and possibly eliminate PSB as a viable theory

ANNI n-nbar Sensitivity in ILL Units for 50m Beamline and **no Reflectors**

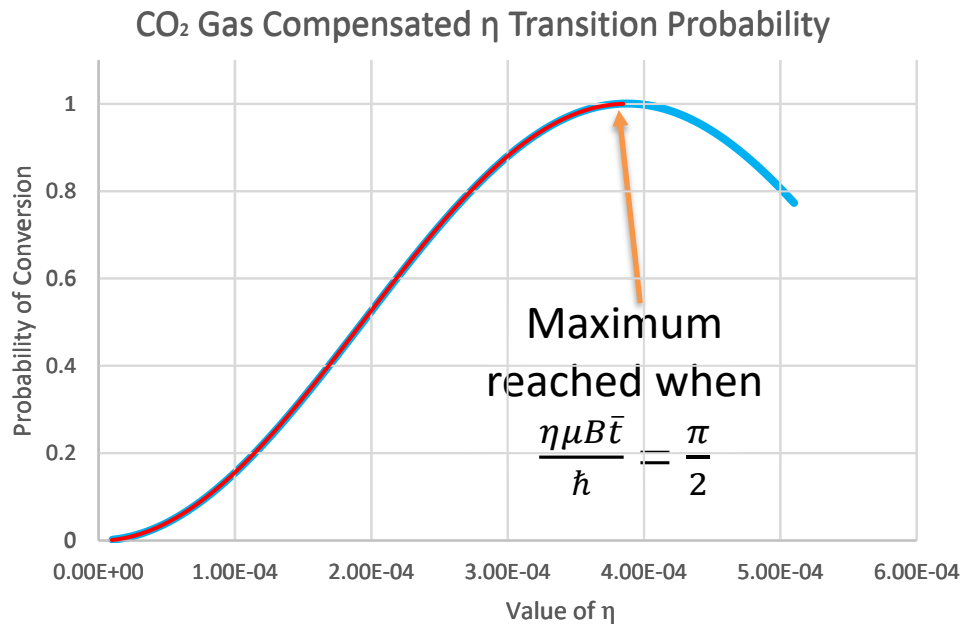
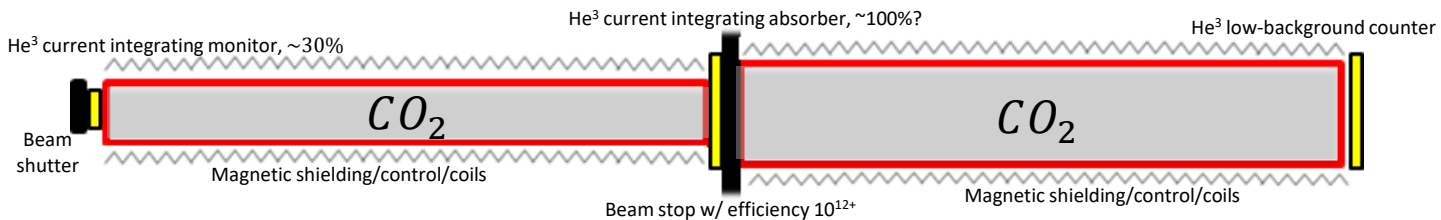


**ANNI can do great R&D work for LBP  $n \rightarrow \bar{n}$ , but also reach similar lower limits to ILL given time and  $n$  reflector optimization**



③b

# ANNI TMM search(es)



Add Fermi potential to compensate

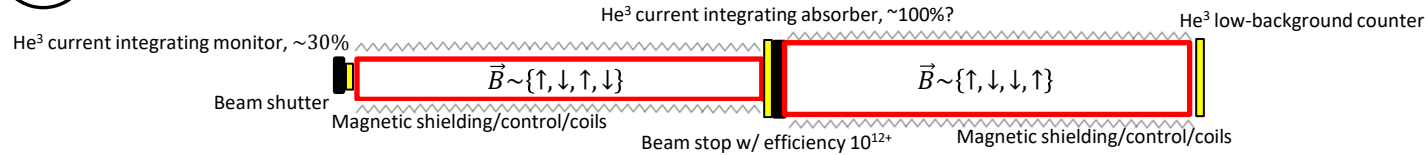
$$\mathcal{H} = \begin{pmatrix} V_F - \mu B & \kappa B \\ \kappa B & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\Rightarrow P_{n'}(\bar{t}) \cong \sin^2\left(\frac{\kappa B}{\hbar} \bar{t}\right)$$

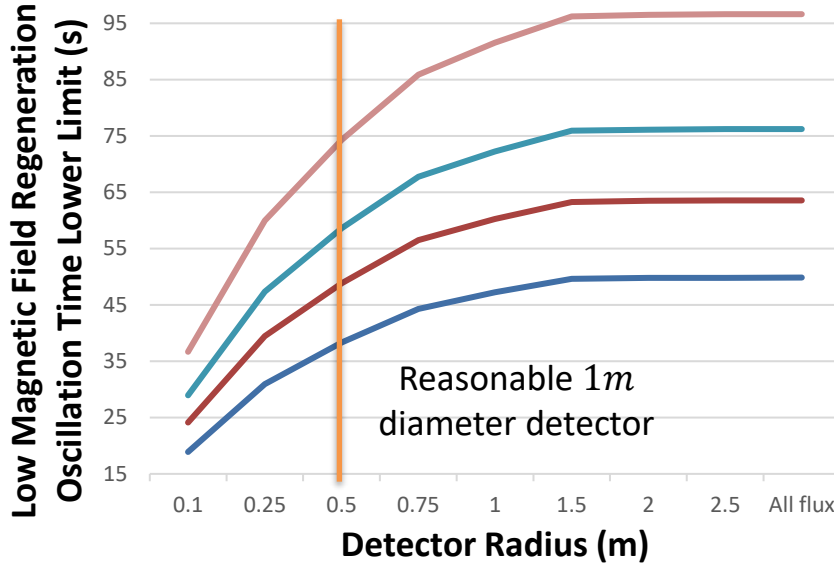
Could expect large effect of  $10^9 - 10^{10}$  neutron disappearances given an expected  $1MW$  flux of  $6.4 \times 10^{10} \frac{n}{s}$  on a  $1m$  diameter detector  $50m$  from the guide exit

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# ANNI low- $\vec{B}$ $n \rightarrow n' \rightarrow n$ search

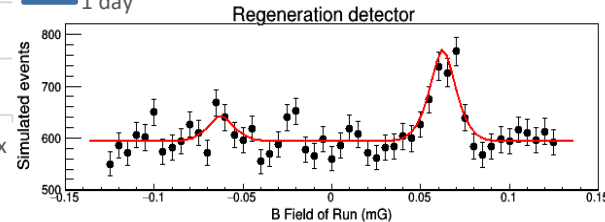


## 95% CL $\tau_{n-n'}$ 1MW Experimental Lower Limits w/ 1 n/s Background Rate

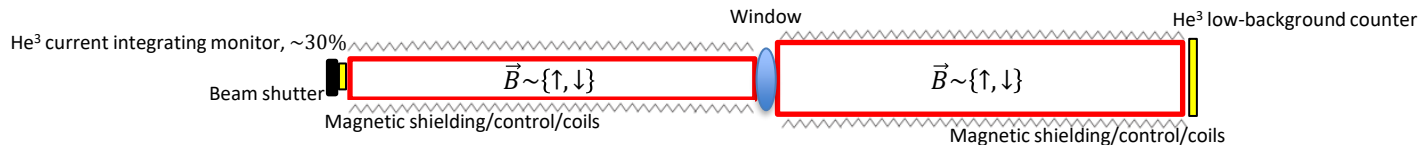


Assume...

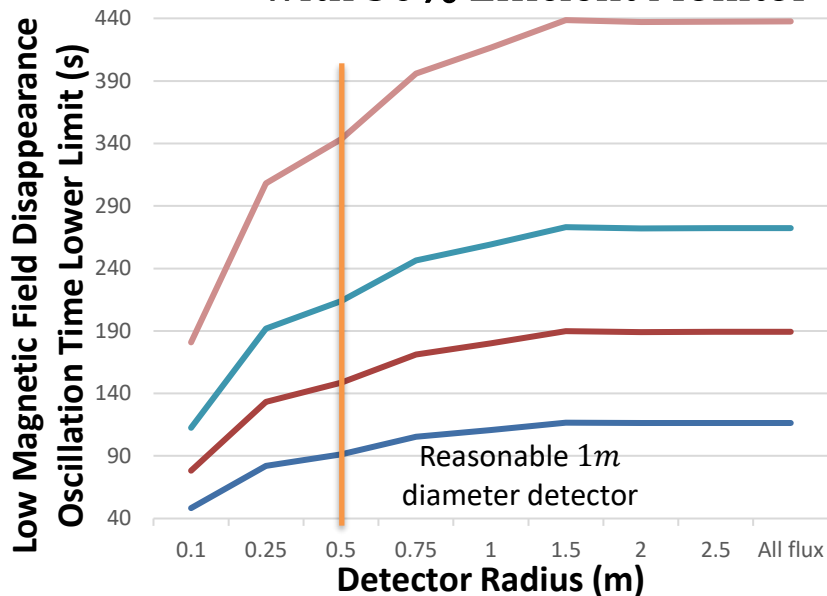
1. Considers only flux on 1m target at 50m
  - $6.4 \times 10^{10} \frac{n}{s}$
  - 1 MW power
2. No reflectors used
3. 200 measurements
  - $(-200, 200)mG$
  - 2mG steps
  - $\sim 2mG$  uniformity



# ANNI low- $\vec{B}$ resonant *disappearance* ( $\epsilon_{n \rightarrow n'}$ ) search



95% CL  $\tau_{n \rightarrow n'}$  1MW Experimental Lower Limits Assume...  
with 30% Efficient Monitor



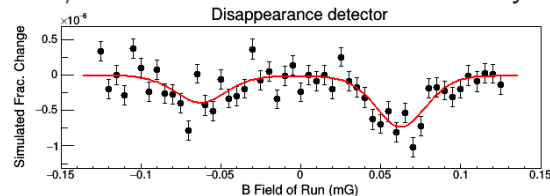
1. Considers only flux on 1m target at 50m

- $6.4 \times 10^{10} \frac{n}{s}$
- 1 MW power

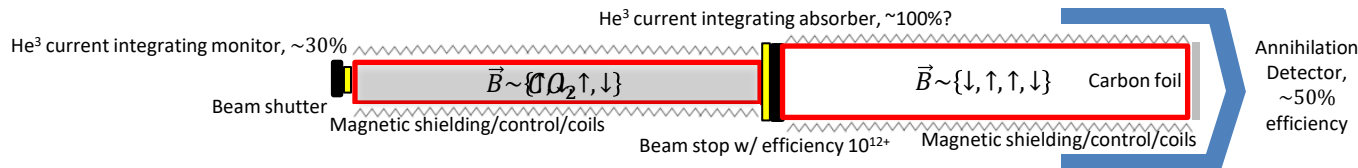
2. No reflectors used

3. 225 measurements

- 25 background runs
- $(-200, 200) mG$
- 2mG steps
- $\sim 2mG$  uniformity



# ANNI $n \rightarrow n' \rightarrow \bar{n}$ search (ZB 2018)



- Can do this **similarly to a regeneration** run
  - Simply replace last  ${}^3_2\text{He}$   $n$ -detector with a carbon foil and annihilation detector ([R. Pattie and A. Young](#))
- Or, if measured and considered useful, use...
  - $\Delta m$  conversion
  - $\kappa$  conversion
    - Possibly with gas
- Check for consistency of measured oscillation times in compliance with unitarity

$$\tau_{n \rightarrow n' \rightarrow \bar{n}} = \tau_{n \rightarrow n'} + \tau_{n' \rightarrow \bar{n}} \geq \tau_{n \rightarrow n'}$$

- Such a search would be highly useful as a development platform for the ESS NNBar Collaboration and is a unique opportunity for ANNI
  - Detector research and design
  - In situ background measurements